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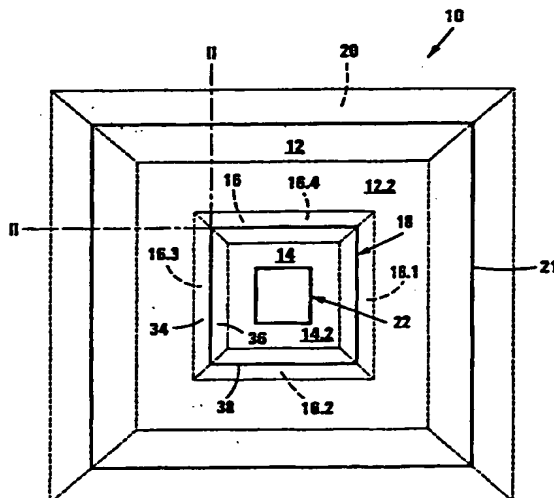
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(54) Title: DEVICE FOR FRAMING AN ARTICLE



(57) Abstract: A device (10) is provided for framing an article. The device includes inner (16) and outer (20) frame components, an outer panel (12) and transparent sheet material (21). The outer panel (12) includes a rear side and a viewer side and defines an aperture (18) and the outer panel (12) is mounted within the outer frame component (20). The inner frame component (16) is arranged to be seated in the aperture (18) so that it overlaps with a peripheral region of the viewer side and the article is mounted within the inner frame component (16). The transparent sheet material (21) is mounted to a frame component and covers the article. The inner frame component (16) includes an outer abutment surface which overlaps the peripheral region of the viewer side of the outer panel (12) which defines the aperture (18) thereby to conceal a peripheral edge of the aperture. The invention extends to an inner frame component (16) and to a method of assembling a picture frame.

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DEVICE FOR FRAMING AN ARTICLE

THIS INVENTION relates to a device for framing an article. It also relates to a frame component for a picture frame and to a method of assembly of a picture frame.

5 Certain conventional picture frames typically include an outer frame within which is mounted a cardboard panel such as matt board or the like with a central aperture. The panel has a viewer side and a rear side and an article is usually mounted within the aperture so that the panel defines a border between the article and the outer frame.

10 A decorative beading may be attached about a periphery of the article, typically by means of a chemical adhesive, to the rear side of the panel to enhance the appearance of the frame.

According to the invention, there is provided a device for framing an article, the device including

- 15 an outer frame component;
- an outer panel including a rear side and a viewer side and defining an aperture, the outer panel being mounted within the outer frame component;
- 20 an inner frame component which is arranged to be seated in the aperture so that it overlaps with a peripheral region of the viewer side, the article being mountable within the inner frame component; and

transparent sheet material mounted to a frame component and covering the article.

The inner frame component may include an outer abutment surface which overlaps the peripheral region of the viewer side of the outer panel which defines the aperture thereby to conceal a peripheral edge of the aperture. Preferably, the device includes an inner panel which is located or locatable within the inner frame component. The inner panel may define an aperture within which the article is mounted and the inner frame component typically includes an inner abutment surface which overlaps a peripheral region of the inner panel in an abutting fashion.

In certain embodiments, the inner panel is an inner panel arrangement including at least two sub-panels e.g. of different colours. The inner panel arrangement may define a border between the article and the inner frame component.

The inner panel may have a rear side and a viewer side, the inner frame component being seated in the aperture of the outer panel arrangement so that it overlaps the peripheral region of its viewer side and it overlaps with an outer peripheral region of the viewer side of the inner panel arrangement.

In certain embodiments, the outer and inner abutment surfaces are coplanar. However, in other embodiments, the abutment surfaces lie in spaced planes so that, in use, the inner and outer panels lie in spaced planes.

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The inner frame component may include a concealed portion and an exposed portion, the exposed portion defining the inner and outer abutment surfaces.

5 The inner frame component may define a generally T-shaped profile in which, when viewed in cross-section, the vertical component of the T-shaped profile corresponds with the concealed portion and the horizontal component corresponding with the exposed portion.

10 The exposed portion preferably includes a visible decorative pattern. The exposed portion may have a height of between 1 mm and 3 mm.

The inner frame component is typically rectangular in outline and formed from four interconnected members.

15 The outer panel may define an outer panel arrangement, e.g. of different colours, including at least two sub-panels, which are arranged in a face-to-face abutting fashion and each of which defines apertures of different magnitudes. The panels are typically matt board or the like.

20 The outer frame component is typically a picture frame, or the like. Accordingly, the transparent sheet material is typically a sheet of glass about which the outer frame component extends.

Further in accordance with the invention, there is provided a method of assembling a frame for an article, the method including

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providing an outer panel, an inner panel in which the article is to be mounted, an inner frame component which includes inner and outer abutment surfaces, an outer frame component, and transparent sheet material ;

5            locating the inner frame component between the inner and the outer panels so that the outer and the inner abutment surfaces of the inner frame component abut an inner peripheral region of the outer panel and an outer peripheral region of the inner panel;

             fastening the inner and outer panels to the inner frame component;

10           and

             mounting the outer panel within the outer frame component with the transparent sheet material over the inner frame component.

             The method may include fastening of the panels to the inner frame component by way of a mechanical fasteners selected from the group consisting of staples and tabs which are bent. In certain  
15           embodiments, staples in the form of "V-nails" are used.

             The invention extends to an inner frame component for use in a device for framing an article, the device including an outer frame, an outer panel with an aperture, and an inner panel to which the article is  
20           mountable so that it is visible through the aperture, the frame component being configured to mount the inner panel to the outer panel and including a concealed portion and an exposed portion which has an outer abutment surface, the outer abutment surface concealing a peripheral edge of the aperture in use.

25           Preferably, the component includes an inner abutment surface which overlaps a peripheral region of the inner panel in an



abutting fashion in use. In certain embodiments, the inner and outer abutment surfaces are coplanar. In other embodiments, the inner and outer abutment surfaces lie in spaced planes so that, in use, the inner and outer panels lie in spaced planes.

5           The inner frame component may define a generally T-shaped profile in which, when viewed in cross-section, the vertical component of the T-shaped profile corresponds with the concealed portion and the horizontal component corresponds with the exposed portion. The exposed portion preferably includes a visible decorative pattern. The  
10       exposed portion may have a height of between 1 mm and 3 mm.

          The inner frame component is typically rectangular in outline and formed from four interconnected members.

          The invention is now described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings.

15       In the drawings,  
          Figure 1 shows a front view of a picture frame in accordance with the invention;

          Figure 2 shows a three-dimensional bottom view of part of the frame of Figure 1 taken at II-II;

20       Figure 3 shows a three-dimensional view of an inner frame component of the frame of Figure 1;

          Figure 4 shows a three-dimensional view of a further embodiment of an inner frame component;

25       Figure 5 shows a side view of the inner frame component of Figure 4; and

Figure 6 shows a side view of a yet further embodiment of an inner frame component.

Referring to the drawings, reference numeral 10 generally indicates a picture frame or device, in accordance with the invention, for framing an article. The frame 10 includes an outer panel 12 and an inner panel 14 which are separated by an inner frame component 16. The outer panel 12 defines an aperture or opening 18 in which the inner frame component 16 is seated as described in more detail below.

The outer frame component 12 is typically matt board or any other cardboard sheet which is typically used in conventional picture framing applications. In a conventional manner, the opening 18 is formed by removing a central portion (not shown) from the outer panel 12. The outer panel 12 has a rear side 12.1 (see Figure 2) and a viewer side 12.2 (see Figures 1 and 2) and is mounted in a conventional outer frame 20 (only shown in Figure 1) including a sheet of glass 21. As in the case of the outer panel 12, the inner panel 14 includes a rear side 14.1 (see Figure 2) and a viewer side 14.2 (see Figures 1 and 2). A further opening 22 is formed in the inner panel 14 for receiving an article to be framed e.g. a certificate, photograph or the like. It is to be appreciated that, in certain embodiments, the outer panel 12 and inner panel 14 may each be composite in nature defining outer and inner panel arrangements comprising a plurality of matt boards or cardboard panels arranged with apertures or openings of various sizes and located in an abutting fashion.

The inner frame component 16 is composite in nature including four interconnected members 16.1 to 16.4 which are cut from

a length of material. Each component 16.1 to 16.4 is cut to an appropriate length, depending upon the magnitude or size of the aperture or opening 18 of the frame 10, so that its ends are cut at 45° and interconnected in a conventional fashion by means of staples or "V-nails" 24 (only one of which is shown in Figure 2 of the drawings) to define a rectangular framelike component. The component 16 has a concealed portion 26 (see Figures 2 and 3) and an upper decorative portion 28 which defines abutment surfaces 30, 32. The opening 18 in the outer panel 12 is shaped and dimensioned so that the inner frame component 16 is seated therein so that the abutment surface 30 abuts an inner peripheral end region 34 (see Figures 1 and 2) of the outer panel 12. In a similar fashion, the inner panel 14 is shaped and dimensioned to be received within the inner frame component 16 so that its outer peripheral end region 36 abuts the abutment surface 32. Accordingly, the inner frame component 16 is positioned between the outer panel 12 and the inner panel 14 in such a fashion so that its abutment surfaces 30, 32 abut the viewer sides 12.2, 14.2 respectively. Inaccuracies in forming or cutting the opening 18 or an outer peripheral edge 38 of the inner panel 14 are thus concealed by the inner frame component 16, as discussed in more detail below.

Unlike conventional decorative components which are used as a border between different cardboard panels in a conventional picture frame, which conventional components include a single abutment surface which is typically attached to a rear or non-visible side of an outer panel by an adhesive which takes time to dry, the outer and inner panels 12, 14 may be stapled from the rear sides 12.1, 14.1 by means of conventional staples 40 to the inner frame component 16. In addition

or instead, conventional tabs 42 may be used to secure the inner frame component 16 to the outer panel 12 and/or the inner panel 14.

As is clearly seen in Figures 2 and 3 of the drawings, abutment surfaces 30, 32 of the inner frame component 16 lie in the same plane 44. Accordingly, the outer and inner panels 12, 14 also lie in the same plane 44. Referring in particular to Figures 4 to 6 of the drawings, reference numerals 60 and 70 generally indicate further embodiments of inner frame components. The inner frame components 60, 70 resemble the inner frame component 16 and, accordingly, like reference numerals have been used to indicate the same or similar features unless otherwise indicated.

As in the case of the inner frame component 16, the inner frame component 60 includes a decorative portion 28 and a concealed portion 26. However, unlike the inner frame component 16, the inner frame component 60 has its abutment surfaces 30, 32 in different spaced apart planes 64, 62. Accordingly, dependent upon the orientation of the inner frame component 60 within the opening 18, the inner panel 14 may be sunken or raised so that the outer and inner panels 12, 14 lie in spaced planes. For example, the outer panel 12 may abut the abutment surface 30 and the inner panel 14 may abut the abutment surface 32 to provide a sunken effect as shown in Figure 5 of the drawings.

The inner frame component 70 substantially resembles the inner frame component 60 but differs in that it does not include the concealed portion 26. Accordingly, the abutment surface 32 is larger and the inner panel 14 or artwork may be attached in a similar fashion

to the inner frame components 16, 60. The inner frame components 16, 60, 70 are generally T-shaped when viewed in cross-section.

In conventional framing arrangements where a conventional beading is used to enhance the decorative effect of a picture frame, the beading typically includes a single abutment surface which is glued to a non-viewer or rear side 14.1 of the outer panel 12. Accordingly, any imperfections in workmanship in cutting the opening 18 are visible from the viewer side 12.1. Further, as the outer panel 12 is seated on a peripheral lip of the conventional beading, it is undesirable to use staples 40 or tabs 42 to secure the outer panel 12 to the beading as they would be clearly visible to an observer of the conventional picture frame. Further, elaborate arrangements are required to provide panels in different planes to create a so-called boxlike effect.

However, with the picture frame 10 in accordance with the invention having its inner frame component 16, 60, 70 seated in an abutting fashion on a viewer side 12.2 of the outer panel 12, any imperfections in cutting out the opening 18 are concealed. Further, although an adhesive may be used to secure the inner frame component 16, 60, 70 to the outer panel and/or inner panel 12, 14 respectively, mechanical fasteners such as staples 40 and/or tabs 42 which are not visible from the viewer sides 12.1, 14.1 may be used. Unlike adhesives which require time to dry, the staples 40 and/or the tabs 42 are immediately effective and production or assembly time of the frame 10 is thereby reduced. Further, the inner frame components 60, 70 allow assembly of frames to provide a boxlike effect with relative ease as the abutment surfaces 30, 32 are spaced.

## 10

It is important to note that the inner frame component 16, 60, 70 need not provide any rigidity to the frame 10. It is typically in the form of a beading performing primarily two functions. Firstly, it performs a decorative function to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the frame 10. Secondly, the inner frame component 16, 60, 70 performs the important function of concealing the inner peripheral border or edge defining the opening 18. It is believed that this has particular advantages in the manufacturing process. It is particularly difficult to provide an acceptable peripheral border, which is visible to a viewer, in conventional framing techniques. As mentioned above the inner frame component 16, 60, 70 conceals imperfections in the cutting process. Accordingly, as a lower accuracy and integrity of the cut creating the opening 18 is required, it may be performed more quickly thereby expediting the manufacturing process.

As is clearly seen in the drawings, the decorative portion 18 of the component 16 does not extend substantially above the abutment surfaces 30, 32. Typically, the decorative portion has a height 33 of between about 1 mm and 3 mm, typically about 2 mm, and the total height 35 of the component is typically about 6 mm. In a similar fashion, the decorative portion of the component 60 has a height of between about 1 mm and 3 mm, typically about 2 mm. In view of the relatively low height of the decorative portion 18, it is generally not substantially spaced from the viewer side 12.2 of the outer panel 12 and, accordingly, the sheet of glass 21 may be positioned relatively close to the outer panel and may abut the decorative portion 18. The inner frame component 16, 60, 70 is typically a synthetic plastics extrusion, wood, or the like. In larger frames 10, multiple layers of matt board, which define the outer panel 12, may be provided to enhance the rigidity

of the frame 10 as the inner frame component 16, 60, 70 does not necessarily provide rigidity due to the fine construction it may have.

The invention extends to a method of manufacturing the frame 10. The method may include cutting an aperture or opening 18 in the outer panel 12 using conventional techniques. Thereafter, the size of the inner frame component 16, 60, 70 is determined. The members 16.1 to 16.4 are then cut, typically at 45°, and the inner frame component 16, 60, 70 is then assembled from the members 16.1 to 16.4 which are typically joined by conventional staples. The inner frame component 16, 60, 70 is then dropped into the opening 18 and its abutment surfaces 30, 32 cover any imperfections in the cutting of the opening 18. The inner frame component is then attached to the outer panel 12 and the inner panel 14 (which may be artwork) is attached by mechanical fastening means such as staples or tabs. It is however to be appreciated that it may be attached by means of an adhesive but mechanical fastening means are preferred as they do not require a drying time. The method also includes the step of mounting the outer panel 12 in the outer frame component 12 which is typically conventional.

The Inventor believes that the invention, as illustrated, provides an enhanced picture frame 10 in which cutting imperfections when creating the opening 18 are concealed by the inner frame component 16, 60, 70 as it is seated on peripheral regions 36, 38 of the viewer sides 12.1, 14.1 of the outer and inner panels 12, 14 respectively.

**CLAIMS:**

1. A device for framing an article, the device including  
an outer frame component;  
an outer panel including a rear side and a viewer side and defining  
5 an aperture, the outer panel being mounted within the outer frame  
component;  
an inner frame component which is arranged to be seated in the  
aperture so that it overlaps with a peripheral region of the viewer side,  
the article being mounted within the inner frame component; and  
10 transparent sheet material mountable to a frame component and  
covering the article.

2. A device as claimed in Claim 1, in which the inner frame  
component includes an outer abutment surface which overlaps the  
peripheral region of the viewer side of the outer panel which defines the  
15 aperture thereby to conceal a peripheral edge of the aperture.

3. A device as claimed in Claim 2, which includes an inner  
panel which is located within the inner frame component, the inner panel  
defining an aperture within which the article is mounted and the inner  
frame component including an inner abutment surface which overlaps a  
20 peripheral region of the inner panel in an abutting fashion.

4. A device as claimed in Claim 3, in which the inner panel is  
an inner panel arrangement including at least two sub-panels, the inner  
panel arrangement defining a border between the article and the inner  
frame component.

5. A device as claimed in Claim 3 or Claim 4, in which the  
outer and inner abutment surfaces are coplanar.



6. A device as claimed in Claim 3 or Claim 4, in which the abutment surfaces lie in spaced planes so that, in use, the inner and outer panels lie in spaced planes.

7. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims 3 to 6 inclusive, in which the inner frame component includes a concealed portion and an exposed portion, the exposed portion defining the inner and outer abutment surfaces.

8. A device as claimed in Claim 7, in which the inner frame component defines a generally T-shaped profile in which, when viewed in cross-section, the vertical component of the T-shaped profile corresponds with the concealed portion and the horizontal component corresponds with the exposed portion.

9. A device as claimed in Claim 8, in which the exposed portion includes a visible decorative pattern.

10. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims 7 to 9 inclusive, in which the exposed portion has a height of between 1 mm and 3 mm.

11. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the inner frame component is rectangular in outline and formed from four interconnected members.

12. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the outer panel defines an outer panel arrangement including at least two sub-panels, which are arranged in a face-to-face abutting fashion and each of which defines apertures of different magnitudes.

13. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the outer frame component is as a picture frame.

14. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the transparent sheet material is a sheet of glass about which the outer frame component extends.

15. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the panel is matt board.

16. A method of assembling a frame for an article, the method including

providing an outer panel, an inner panel in which the article is to be mounted, an inner frame component which includes inner and outer abutment surfaces, an outer frame component, and transparent sheet material ;

locating the inner frame component between the inner and the outer panels so that the inner and the outer abutment surfaces of the inner frame component abut an inner peripheral region of the outer panel and an outer peripheral region of the inner panel;

fastening the inner and outer panels to the inner frame component; and

mounting the outer panel within the outer frame component with the transparent sheet material over the inner frame component.

17. A method as claimed in Claim 16, in which fastening of the panels to the inner frame component is by way of a mechanical fasteners selected from the group consisting of staples and tabs which are bent.

18. An inner frame component for use in a device for framing an article, the device including an outer frame, an outer panel with an

aperture, and an inner panel to which the article is mountable so that it is visible through the aperture, the frame component being configured to mount the inner panel to the outer panel and including a concealed portion and an exposed portion which has an outer abutment surface, the outer abutment surface concealing a peripheral edge of the aperture in use.

19. A component as claimed in Claim 18, which includes an inner abutment surface which overlaps a peripheral region of the inner panel in an abutting fashion in use.

20. A component as claimed in Claim 19, in which the inner and outer abutment surfaces are coplanar.

21. A component as claimed in Claim 19, in which the inner and outer abutment surfaces lie in spaced planes so that, in use, the inner and outer panels lie in spaced planes.

22. A component as claimed in any one of the preceding claims 18 to 21 inclusive, in which the inner frame component defines a generally T-shaped profile in which, when viewed in cross-section, the vertical component of the T-shaped profile corresponding with the concealed portion and the horizontal component corresponding with the exposed portion.

23. A component as claimed in any one of the preceding claims 18 to 22 inclusive, in which the exposed portion includes a visible decorative pattern.

24. A component as claimed in any one of the preceding claims 18 to 23 inclusive, in which the exposed portion has a height of between 1 mm and 3 mm.

5 25. A component as claimed in any one of the preceding claims 18 to 24, in which the inner frame component is rectangular in outline and formed from four interconnected members.

26. A new device, substantially as herein described and illustrated.

10 27. A new method of assembling a picture frame, substantially as herein described.

28. A new inner frame component, substantially as herein described.

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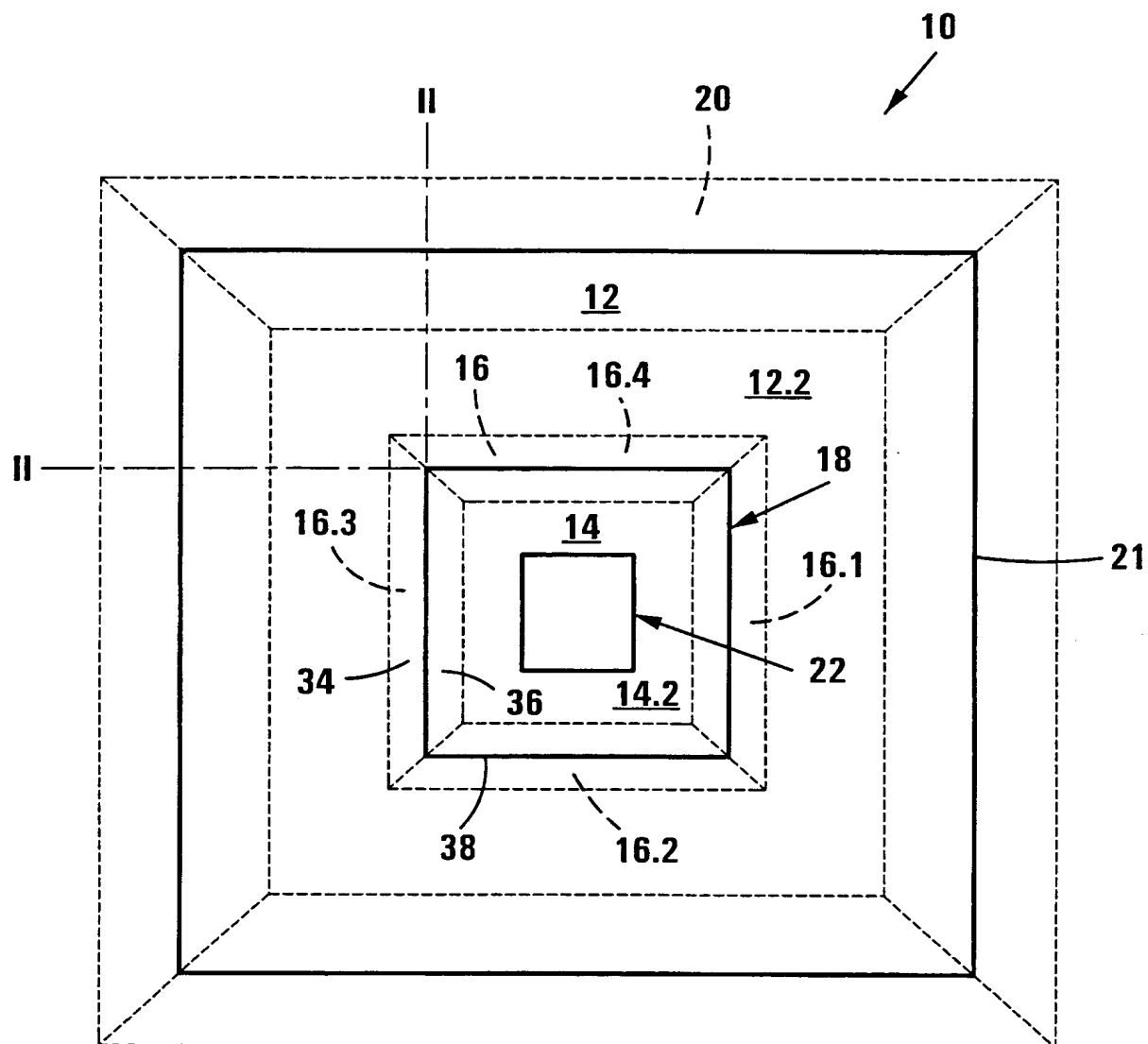
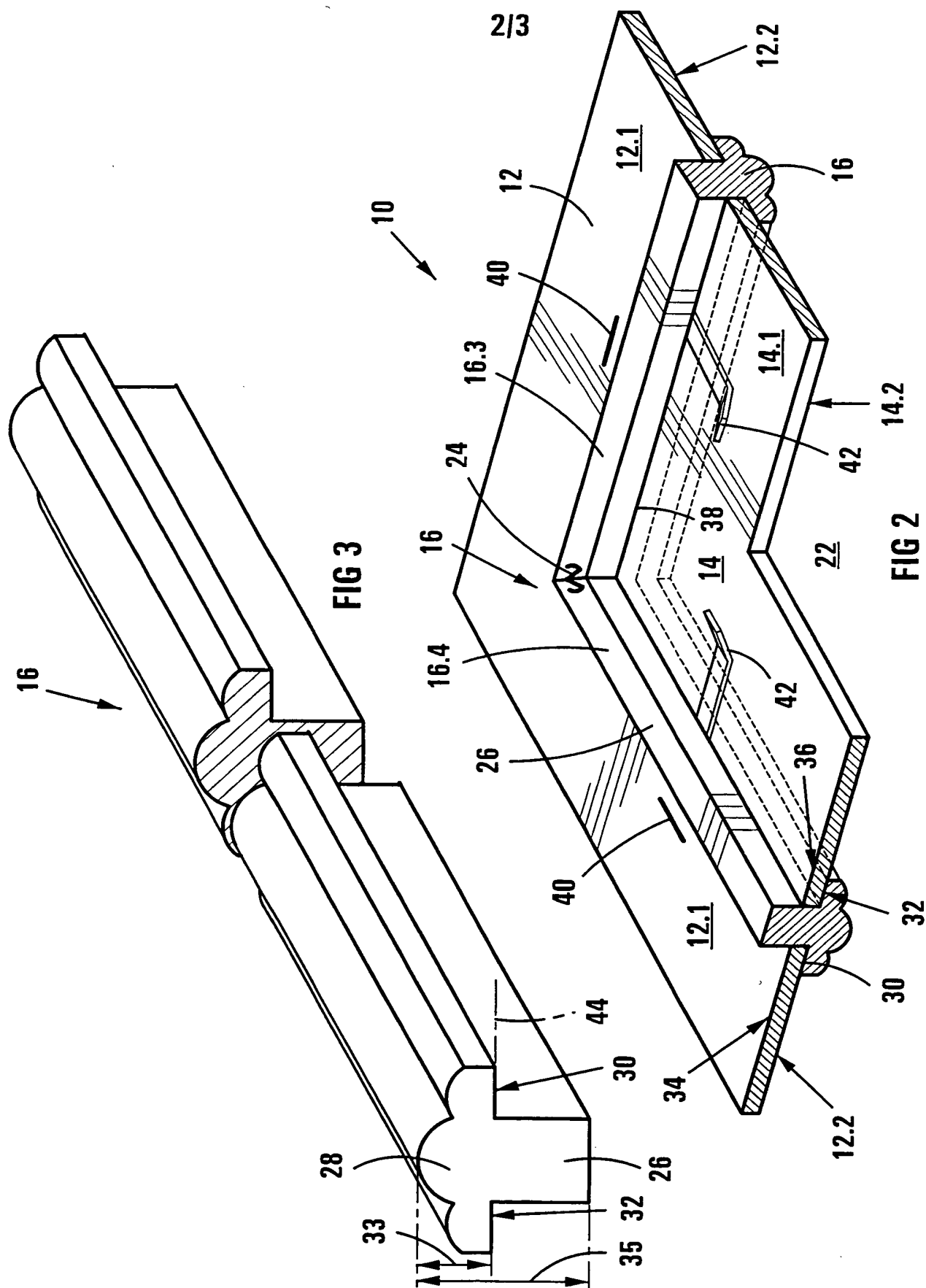


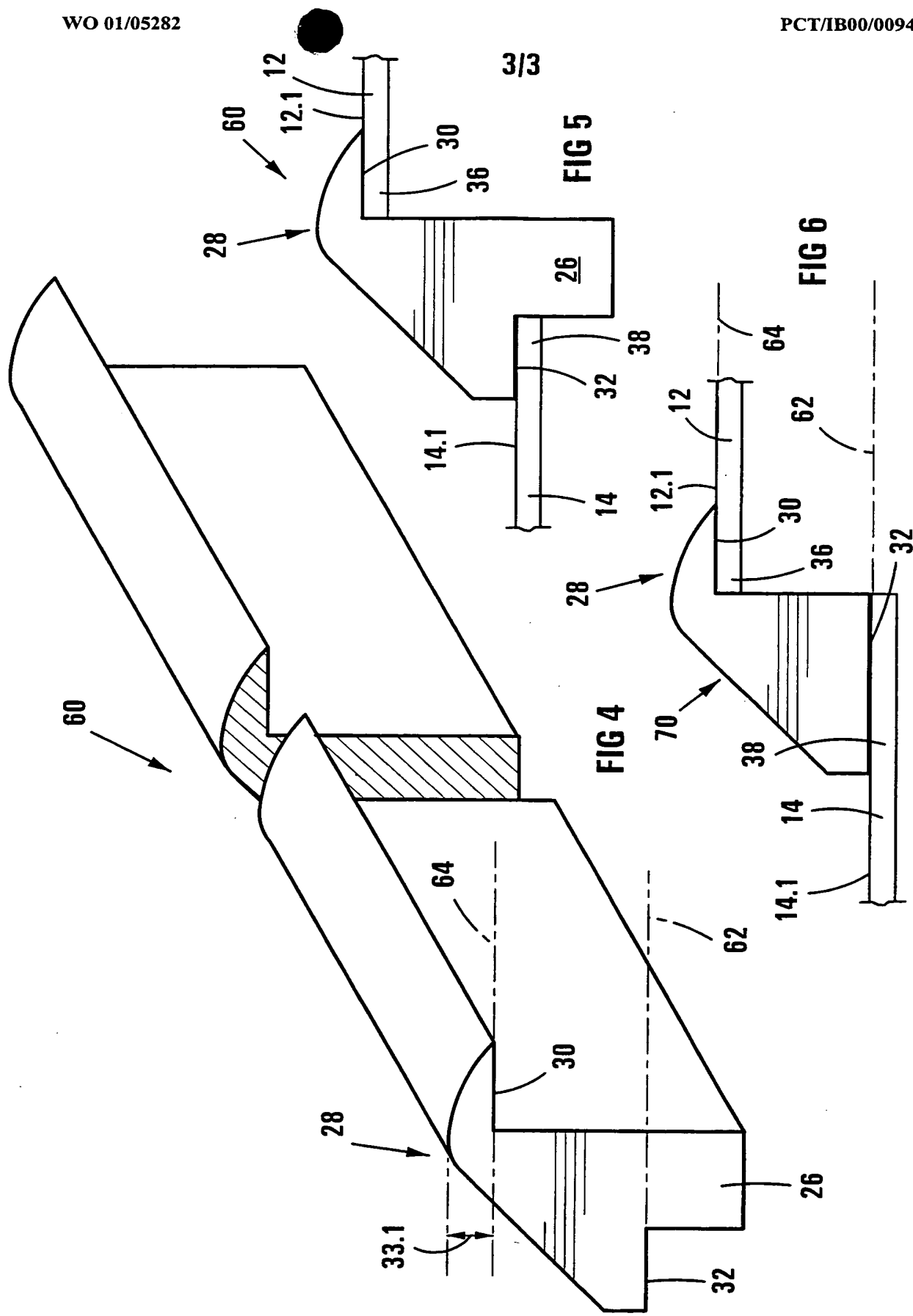
FIG 1

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ART 3

**CLAIMS:**

1. A device for framing an article, the device including  
an outer frame component;  
an outer panel including a rear side and a viewer side and defining  
5 an aperture, the outer panel being mounted within the outer frame  
component;  
an inner frame component which is arranged to be seated in the  
aperture so that it overlaps with a peripheral region of the viewer side,  
the article being mounted within the inner frame component; and  
10 transparent sheet material mountable to a frame component and  
covering the article.
2. A device as claimed in Claim 1, in which the inner frame  
component includes an outer abutment surface which overlaps the  
peripheral region of the viewer side of the outer panel which defines the  
15 aperture thereby to conceal a peripheral edge of the aperture.
3. A device as claimed in Claim 2, which includes an inner  
panel which is located within the inner frame component, the inner panel  
defining an aperture within which the article is mounted and the inner  
frame component including an inner abutment surface which overlaps a  
20 peripheral region of the inner panel in an abutting fashion.
4. A device as claimed in Claim 3, in which the inner panel is  
an inner panel arrangement including at least two sub-panels, the inner  
panel arrangement defining a border between the article and the inner  
frame component.
- 25 5. A device as claimed in Claim 3 or Claim 4, in which the  
outer and inner abutment surfaces are coplanar.

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6. A device as claimed in Claim 3 or Claim 4, in which the abutment surfaces lie in spaced planes so that, in use, the inner and outer panels lie in spaced planes.

5 7. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims 3 to 6 inclusive, in which the inner frame component includes a concealed portion and an exposed portion, the exposed portion defining the inner and outer abutment surfaces.

10 8. A device as claimed in Claim 7, in which the inner frame component defines a generally T-shaped profile in which, when viewed in cross-section, the vertical component of the T-shaped profile corresponds with the concealed portion and the horizontal component corresponds with the exposed portion.

9. A device as claimed in Claim 8, in which the exposed portion includes a visible decorative pattern.

15 10. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims 7 to 9 inclusive, in which the exposed portion has a height of between 1 mm and 3 mm.

20 11. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the inner frame component is rectangular in outline and formed from four interconnected members.

12. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the outer panel defines an outer panel arrangement including at least two sub-panels, which are arranged in a face-to-face abutting fashion and each of which defines apertures of different magnitudes.

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## 14

13. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the outer frame component is as a picture frame.

14. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the transparent sheet material is a sheet of glass about which the outer frame component extends.

15. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the panel is matt board.

16. A method of assembling a frame for an article, the method including

10 providing an outer panel, an inner panel in which the article is to be mounted, an inner frame component which includes inner and outer abutment surfaces, an outer frame component, and transparent sheet material ;

15 locating the inner frame component between the inner and the outer panels so that the inner and the outer abutment surfaces of the inner frame component abut an inner peripheral region of the outer panel and an outer peripheral region of the inner panel;

fastening the inner and outer panels to the inner frame component; and

20 mounting the outer panel within the outer frame component with the transparent sheet material over the inner frame component.

17. A method as claimed in Claim 16, in which fastening of the panels to the inner frame component is by way of a mechanical fasteners selected from the group consisting of staples and tabs which are bent.

25 18. An inner frame component for use in a device for framing an article, the device including an outer frame, an outer panel with an

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aperture, and an inner panel to which the article is mountable so that it is visible through the aperture, the frame component being configured to mount the inner panel to the outer panel and including a concealed portion and an exposed portion which has an outer abutment surface,  
5 the outer abutment surface concealing a peripheral edge of the aperture in use.

19. A component as claimed in Claim 18, which includes an inner abutment surface which overlaps a peripheral region of the inner panel in an abutting fashion in use.

10 20. A component as claimed in Claim 19, in which the inner and outer abutment surfaces are coplanar.

21. A component as claimed in Claim 19, in which the inner and outer abutment surfaces lie in spaced planes so that, in use, the inner and outer panels lie in spaced planes.

15 22. A component as claimed in any one of the preceding claims 18 to 21 inclusive, in which the inner frame component defines a generally T-shaped profile in which, when viewed in cross-section, the vertical component of the T-shaped profile corresponding with the concealed portion and the horizontal component corresponding with the  
20 exposed portion.

23. A component as claimed in any one of the preceding claims 18 to 22 inclusive, in which the exposed portion includes a visible decorative pattern.

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## 16

24. A component as claimed in any one of the preceding claims 18 to 23 inclusive, in which the exposed portion has a height of between 1 mm and 3 mm.

5 25. A component as claimed in any one of the preceding claims 18 to 24, in which the inner frame component is rectangular in outline and formed from four interconnected members.

26. A new device, substantially as herein described and illustrated.

10 27. A new method of assembling a picture frame, substantially as herein described.

28. A new inner frame component, substantially as herein described.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internati Application No  
PCT/IB 00/00941

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC 7 A47G1/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 A47G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2 623 316 A (KNOX) 30 December 1952 (1952-12-30)	1,2,11, 13,15, 18,19, 21-23; 25-28
A	figures 1-5	3,6-9, 16,17
X	GB 1 562 320 A (KERWIN ET AL.) 12 March 1980 (1980-03-12)	1,2,11, 13,15, 18,19, 21,23, 25-28
A	figures 4,6	3,6,7, 10,16
	--- -/-	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents :

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*G\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

20 October 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

06/11/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3018

Authorized officer

Beugeling, G.L.H.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/IB 00/00941

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 03382 A A.D. 1912 (POMEROY) 4 July 1912 (1912-07-04)	16,18, 19,21, 23,25-28
A	the whole document	1,11, 13-15
X	DE 90 02 747 U (KÖRBER) 12 July 1990 (1990-07-12)	1,2,11, 13,15, 18-20, 23,25-28
	figure 2	
X	FR 1 417 490 A (DUPUY) 4 February 1966 (1966-02-04) figure	18-20, 22-24,28

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Internati Application No  
PCT/IB 00/00941

Patent document cited in search report		Publication dat	Patent family member(s)	Publication dat
US 2623316	A	30-12-1952	NONE	
GB 1562320	A	12-03-1980	NONE	
GB M03382	A		NONE	
DE 9002747	U	12-07-1990	NONE	
FR 1417490	A	04-02-1966	NONE	

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# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

# PCT

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>F15176 GV</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>		see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 b) low.
International application No. <b>PCT/IB 00/ 00941</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>12/07/2000</b>	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) <b>20/07/1999</b>	
Applicant  <b>POGGIOLINI, MARCELLO</b>			

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

### 1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

1  
☐ None of the figures.

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## Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of Item 5 of the first sheet)

A device (10) is provided for framing an article. The device includes inner (16) and outer (20) frame components, an outer panel (12) and transparent sheet material (21). The outer panel (12) includes a rear side and a viewer side and defines an aperture (18) and the outer panel (12) is mounted within the outer frame component (20). The inner frame component (16) is arranged to be seated in the aperture (18) so that it overlaps with a peripheral region of the viewer side and the article is mounted within the inner frame component (16). The transparent sheet material (21) is mounted to a frame component and covers the article. The inner frame component (16) includes an outer abutment surface which overlaps the peripheral region of the viewer side of the outer panel (12) which defines the aperture (18) thereby to conceal a peripheral edge of the aperture. The invention extends to an inner frame component (16) and to a method of assembling a picture frame.

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

P 00/00941

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC 7 A47G1/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A47G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EP0-Internal

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2 623 316 A (KNOX) 30 December 1952 (1952-12-30)	1, 2, 11, 13, 15, 18, 19, 21-23, 25-28
A	figures 1-5	3, 6-9, 16, 17
X	GB 1 562 320 A (KERWIN ET AL.) 12 March 1980 (1980-03-12)	1, 2, 11, 13, 15, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25-28
A	figures 4, 6	3, 6, 7, 10, 16
	---	
	--- -/--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&amp;" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

20 October 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

06/11/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
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Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Beugeling, G.L.H.

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

P 00/00941

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 03382 A A.D. 1912 (POMEROY) 4 July 1912 (1912-07-04)	16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25-28
A	the whole document	1, 11, 13-15
X	DE 90 02 747 U (KÖRBER) 12 July 1990 (1990-07-12)  figure 2	1, 2, 11, 13, 15, 18-20, 23, 25-28
X	FR 1 417 490 A (DUPUY) 4 February 1966 (1966-02-04) figure	18-20, 22-24, 28

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

IB 00/00941

Pat nt docum nt cit d in s arch r port		Publication dat	Patent family member(s)	Publication dat
US 2623316	A	30-12-1952	NONE	
GB 1562320	A	12-03-1980	NONE	
GB M03382	A		NONE	
DE 9002747	U	12-07-1990	NONE	
FR 1417490	A	04-02-1966	NONE	

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>F15176 GV</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. <b>PCT/IB00/00941</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>12/07/2000</b>	Priority date (day/month/year) <b>20/07/1999</b>
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC <b>A47G1/06</b>		
Applicant <b>POGGIOLINI, MARCELLO</b>		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 4 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand  <b>25/01/2001</b>	Date of completion of this report  <b>03.09.2001</b>
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:   <b>European Patent Office</b> <b>D-80298 Munich</b> <b>Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d</b> <b>Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465</b>	Authorized officer  <b>Reichhardt, O</b>  <b>Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2485</b> 

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# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/IB00/00941

## I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

### Description, pages:

1-11 as originally filed

### Claims, No.:

1-19 as received on 17/08/2001 with letter of 14/08/2001

### Drawings, sheets:

1/3-3/3 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:

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**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/IB00/00941

☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability**

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application.

☒ claims Nos. 17-19.

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 17-19 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):  
**see separate sheet**

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☐ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. .

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N) Yes: Claims 1-16

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# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/IB00/00941

	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-16
	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-16
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations  
**see separate sheet**

## VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:  
**see separate sheet**

## VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:  
**see separate sheet**

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**1. Concerning claims 1 - 14:**

**1.1 Closest prior art: US-A-2 881 544.**

This document (see Figure 2) discloses a device for framing an article, the device including an outer frame component 1; an outer panel 4 including a rear side and a viewer side and defining an aperture, the outer panel 4 being mounted within the outer frame component 1; an inner frame component 30 which includes an outer abutment surface which overlaps a peripheral region of the viewer side of the outer panel 4 thereby to conceal a peripheral edge of the aperture; an inner panel 61 which is located within the inner frame component 30, the inner frame component 30 including an inner abutment surface which overlaps a peripheral region of the inner panel 61 in an abutting fashion and the article 63 being mounted in use within the inner frame component 30; and transparent sheet material 60 mounted to the inner frame component 30 and covering the article.

In order to enhance the decorative effect of the framing device, the invention suggests that the transparent sheet material be mounted to the outer frame component to cover the article.

None of the available documents renders obvious such device for framing an article.

Consequently, the subject-matter of independent claims 1 and 14 meets the requirements of Article 33(2),(3) PCT with regard to novelty and inventive step.

**1.2 Dependent claims 2 - 13 concern further embodiments of the device according to claim 1.**

Consequently, the subject-matter of claims 2 - 13 meets the requirements of Article 33(2),(3) PCT.

**1.3 The device as defined in claims 1 - 14 is industrial applicable.**

Consequently, the subject-matter of claims 1 - 14 meets the requirement of Article 33(4) PCT.

**1.4 Although claims 1 and 14 have been drafted as separate independent claims, they relate effectively to the same subject-matter and differ from each other only in**

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respect of the terminology used for the features of that subject-matter.  
The aforementioned claims therefore lack conciseness, contrary to the requirements of Article 6 PCT.

- 1.5 The independent claims 1 and 14 are not drafted in the two-part form, in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT, with those features known in combination from document US-A-2 881 544 being placed in the preamble.

**2. Concerning claims 15 and 16:**

- 2.1 Independent claim 15 defines a method of assembling a frame as defined in independent claim 1.  
Consequently, the subject-matter of independent claim 15 meets the requirements of Article 33(2),(3) PCT with regard to novelty and inventive step.
- 2.2 Dependent claim 16 concerns further steps of the method according to claim 15.  
Consequently, the subject-matter of claim 16 meets the requirements of Article 33(2),(3) PCT.
- 2.3 The method as defined in claims 15 and 16 is industrial applicable.  
Consequently, the subject-matter of claims 15 and 16 meets the requirement of Article 33(4) PCT.

**3. Concerning claims 17 - 19:**

Independent claims 17, 18 and 19 do not define any features of the invention, contrary to the requirement of clarity (Article 6 PCT).

4. The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses, contrary to Rule 6.2(b) PCT.
5. The description has not been brought into conformity with the amended claims. The relevant background art disclosed in document US-A-2 881 544 is not mentioned in the description, nor is this document identified therein, contrary to Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT.

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**CLAIMS:**

1. A device for framing an article, the device including  
an outer frame component;  
an outer panel including a rear side and a viewer side and defining  
5 an aperture, the outer panel being mounted within the outer frame  
component;  
an inner frame component which includes an outer abutment  
surface which overlaps a peripheral region of the viewer side of the outer  
panel thereby to conceal a peripheral edge of the aperture;  
10 an inner panel which is located within the inner frame component,  
the inner frame component including an inner abutment surface which  
overlaps a peripheral region of the inner panel in an abutting fashion and  
the article being mounted in use within the inner frame component; and  
transparent sheet material mounted to the outer frame component  
15 and covering the article.
2. A device as claimed in Claim 1, in which the inner panel is  
an inner panel arrangement including at least two sub-panels, the inner  
panel arrangement defining a border between the article and the inner  
frame component.
- 20 3. A device as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, in which the  
outer and inner abutment surfaces are coplanar.
4. A device as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, in which the  
abutment surfaces lie in spaced planes so that, in use, the inner and  
outer panels lie in spaced planes.

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5. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the inner frame component includes a concealed portion and an exposed portion, the exposed portion defining the inner and outer abutment surfaces.
- 5 6. A device as claimed in Claim 5, in which the inner frame component defines a generally T-shaped profile in which, when viewed in cross-section, the vertical component of the T-shaped profile corresponds with the concealed portion and the horizontal component corresponds with the exposed portion.
- 10 7. A device as claimed in Claim 6, in which the exposed portion includes a visible decorative pattern.
8. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims 5 to 7 inclusive, in which the exposed portion has a height of between 1 mm and 3 mm.
- 15 9. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the inner frame component is rectangular in outline and formed from four interconnected members.
- 10 20 10. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the outer panel defines an outer panel arrangement including at least two sub-panels, which are arranged in a face-to-face abutting fashion and each of which defines apertures of different magnitudes.
11. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the outer frame component is as a picture frame.

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14

12. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the transparent sheet material is a sheet of glass about which the outer frame component extends.

13. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the panel is matt board.

14. A device for framing an article, the device including  
an outer frame component;  
an outer panel including a rear side and a viewer side and defining an aperture, the outer panel being mounted within the outer frame component;  
an inner frame component which includes an outer abutment surface which overlaps a peripheral region of the viewer side of the outer panel thereby to conceal a peripheral edge of the aperture;  
an inner panel which is located within the inner frame component, the inner frame component including an inner abutment surface which overlaps a peripheral region of the inner panel in an abutting fashion and the article being mounted in use within the inner frame component; and  
a sheet of glass mounted to the outer frame component so that the outer frame component extends about the sheet of glass, with the sheet of glass covering the article.

15. A method of assembling a frame for an article, the method including  
providing an outer panel, an inner panel in which the article is to be mounted, an inner frame component which includes inner and outer abutment surfaces, an outer frame component, and transparent sheet material ;

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15

locating the inner frame component between the inner and the outer panels so that the inner and the outer abutment surfaces of the inner frame component abut an inner peripheral region of the outer panel and an outer peripheral region of the inner panel;

5           fastening the inner and outer panels to the inner frame component;  
and

          mounting the outer panel within the outer frame component with the transparent sheet material over the inner frame component.

16.           A method as claimed in Claim 15, in which fastening of the  
10           panels to the inner frame component is by way of a mechanical fasteners  
          selected from the group consisting of staples and tabs which are bent.

17.           A new device, substantially as herein described and  
          illustrated.

18.           A new method of assembling a picture frame, substantially  
15           as herein described.

19.           A new inner frame component, substantially as herein  
          described.

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